

The Seeley Homestead  
Seeley, Cumberland County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-75

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Seeley Homestead  
Seeley, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Alden Smith

Date of Erection: Before 1785

Architect:

Builder: Josiah Seeley

Present Condition: Very good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - main house  
native stone laid up in  
shell line; concrete  
blocks under wings

Exterior walls - clapboards

Interior walls - plaster and  
panel

Inside chimneys

Floors - white cedar random  
width

Roof - pitch, wood shingles  
on the original structure

Historical Data:

Josiah Seeley, the builder of this house,  
was one of the tea burners of Greenwich. He was a

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first lieutenant in the Continental Army and later quartermaster of the Cumberland Militia. He settled near Deerfield on the mill property inherited from his father at Seeley. An old frame house occupied by former proprietors stood on this property. This was torn down and Josiah Seeley erected a pretentious dwelling in the best taste of the period. It was completed sometime between 1779 and 1785; the exact date is unknown.

The parlor is a fine piece of colonial architecture. It has paneled walls and a carved mantel. The most attractive feature of the second floor is the master bedroom with its fireplace and wall panel. The original wood work of the interior has had the paint burnt off and at the present time is in a perfect state of preservation.

The remodelling and the additions to the house do not carry out the charm of the original building in either fenestration, cornice, mouldings, label mouldings, and foundations.

#### Bibliography:

Field Book and Drawings of Survey,  
and information from the owner

Walter C. Rutt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Reviewed  
Sept 2, 1936  
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